

**Massachusetts All-Payer Claims Database
Monthly Technical Assistance Group (TAG) Webinar
Meeting Notes**

Date: Tuesday, May 8, 2012
Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm EST

The Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (Division) convenes a monthly technical assistance group (TAG) webinar with health care payers to discuss the all-payer claims database (APCD) implementation and provide technical support to the group. The following is a summary of the meeting from Tuesday, May 8, 2012:

I. Welcome and Introduction

Kathy Hines welcomed everyone to the Massachusetts all-payer claims database (APCD) technical assistance group (TAG) webinar and thanked participants for their engagement with the Division to make the implementation of the APCD successful. K. Hines reviewed the TAG call agenda with payers.

II. APCD Administrative Updates

a. Review of tentative data release process and schedule

- K. Hines announced that the Division is still on track for an initial data release in the previously announced late June / early summer timeframe. She also announced that, over the next few weeks, the Data Release Committee will be formed, the data request application will be posted, and administrative bulletins informing the data release will be published. She encouraged attendees to regularly check our website for announcements and postings.

b. Claim Versioning Update

- K. Hines reviewed the process and methodology for determining the final version of each claim, as it was discussed in previous TAG meetings. She also discussed a number of caveats to the versioning process with regards to the June data release. Please see the presentation for more specific information.

c. Submission Guideline Updates

- K. Hines announced that some changes will be made to the submission guidelines in the upcoming administrative bulletin and indicated that this will be published next week hopefully.

d. TAG meeting summary notes from previous months available on the APCD website

- The Division is committed to providing payers with the documentation and support necessary to ensure the successful implementation of the APCD. While the Division encourages full payer participation on the TAG calls, the Division recognizes that some payers are not able to participate and therefore has made meeting summary notes available for download on the APCD website (www.mass.gov/dhcfp/apcd) under USER RESOURCES to ensure important information is available to all.

b. APCD Website Updates

- The Division's Events page lists meeting summaries and presentations from all previous TAG meetings. The User Resources page will soon contain links to the administrative bulletins and, most likely, the data request application.

III. Technical Support

a. Payer Specific Questions

QUESTION: Will the Division be reaching out to carriers if any mismatches are generated in our files so that we can further investigate?

ANSWER: We will be getting in touch with some carriers. However, given the large number of users, we will be relying on some users to reach out to us.

QUESTION: Will new elements be clearly highlighted separate from existing data elements?

ANSWER: Yes. Bulletins will just list new elements. All changes will be reflected in our updated submission guidelines.

QUESTION: Will this administrative bulletin be the same or different as the one detailing data release changes?

ANSWER: These are separate bulletins.

QUESTION: In regards to the file linkages, are there going to be threshold variances that go along with this?

ANSWER: There will be resubmissions if the linkages aren't working. This will be part of the QA process.

QUESTION: When do the new elements like the ICD 9/10 indicator go into effect?

ANSWER: Not for 6 months.

QUESTION: The new data elements, will they be added to the end of the current format?

ANSWER: Yes, that is the plan.

QUESTION: Should we assume if we have not heard from our liaison about versioning that we are doing it appropriately?

ANSWER: No. Talk with your own people to make sure you are versioning to our specs.

IV. Additional Items and Next Steps

- The **next TAG webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12th from 2pm – 3pm EST** and subsequent webinars are scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- The Analytic Workgroup normally held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month is being combined with the Technical Workgroup for the month of May. This combined meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22nd.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 P.M.